



2020 Anchorage Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area **Virtual Invasive Species Smackdown**

Greetings Volunteers,

The annual Anchorage weed smackdown is an important event to assist in protection of the habitats around the city and spread awareness about the threats posed by invasive species. In order to keep the event going it will look different this year as compared with years past due to COVID-19. Participants are encouraged to get creative with invasive species outreach.

Suggestions of ways to participate include:

- Making an art project depicting how invasive species impact Alaska
- Write an essay about the importance of invasive species research or the ecological impacts of invasive species in Alaska
- Write a letter to the editor of the Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage Press, or other publication
- Make a YouTube or TikTok video to share with your classmates or friends
- Compose a post on a social media platform of your choice to raise awareness about invasive species
 - If you post on social media, please use the hashtags
#AnchorageInvasiveSpeciesSmackdown2020 and #KeepAlaskaWildAndFree
- Compose an invasive species informational brochure to give to friends and family
- You can choose one invasive species; discuss invasive species in general; or share an educational campaign such as “Clean, Drain, Dry” for boaters or “Play, Clean, Go” for terrestrial recreation
- Any other method you can think of to help raise awareness about invasive species in Alaska!

Upon completion, all participants will receive a free T-shirt and be eligible for additional prizes. Details for crew leaders and event participants are as follows:

Sign Up Procedures

- Sign up Dates: Beginning August 10, 2020 online
- Sign up via [Anchorage Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area](#) website
 - Fill out the [Google Form](#) to sign up

Smackdown Dates

- August 15 – September 20, 2020
- When you have finished with your participation, please send the following information to betty.charnon@usda.gov as soon as you have completed your participation but no later than 9/21/2020 at 5:00 PM.
 - Name
 - Description of activity (e.g. photo of product, screenshot of social media post, etc.) and any details on how you shared your project with friends, family, classmates, scout groups, church groups, social media likes, etc.
 - Please let us know if you grant us permission to share your videos, photos of your project, etc on the ANC-CISMA and/or our partner Public Lands agencies' social media sites (Parents will need to consent on behalf of any children under 18)

Volunteers Will Receive

- A free t-shirt after submitting their project
 - T-shirt pick-up September 1 and September 25, 2020 at Chuck Albrecht Ballfields Parking Lot on MLK and Elmore between 4 PM – 7 PM
- Eligible for prize drawings
 - Custom Wood-worked item made from chokecherry
 - Gift cards to local businesses

Potential Invasive Species to Use in Your Project (hold control and click on each link below for more information about the species). Feel free to select other invasive species of concern to Alaska.

[Elodea](#) (image courtesy: Alaska DNR)



[Orange Hawkweed](#)



[European Bird Cherry](#)



[Reed Canarygrass](#)



[Northern Pike](#) (image courtesy: Alaska DFG)



[European Green Crab](#) (image courtesy: Alaska DFG)



[European Black Slug](#) (image courtesy: Marc Donadieu / Glacier City Gazette)



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

If participating in or as a group, adhere to [CDC Social Distancing Guidelines](#), wear masks, and use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content frequently to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19 where appropriate. If participants have any of the [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, or are at [greater risk](#) for COVID-19, please do not participate in the event in a group setting this year.

Point-of-Contact

If any participants have any questions, please contact Betty Charnon at betty.charnon@usda.gov.

Thank you for participating from the Anchorage Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area and more importantly, from our native wildlife and plants!